



Rethinking Responsive Education Ventures (RREV)

Background


Rethinking Responsive Education Ventures (RREV) is funded by a \$16.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Rethink K–12 Education Models program and is intended to promote innovation in Maine schools so that all students across the state have access to high-quality and responsive learning opportunities. Since August 2021, over 40 school districts throughout Maine have been awarded federal funding from RREV to support innovative education pilot projects.




Outdoor Education

Outdoor education uses nontraditional learning spaces—including woods and waterways near schools and community partners—in diverse ways to support student learning. RREV awards have provided schools and districts with funding to construct outdoor learning areas and procure equipment and gear for outdoor learning activities.


Reach of Outdoor Education



24 schools involved



Over 12,000 students served



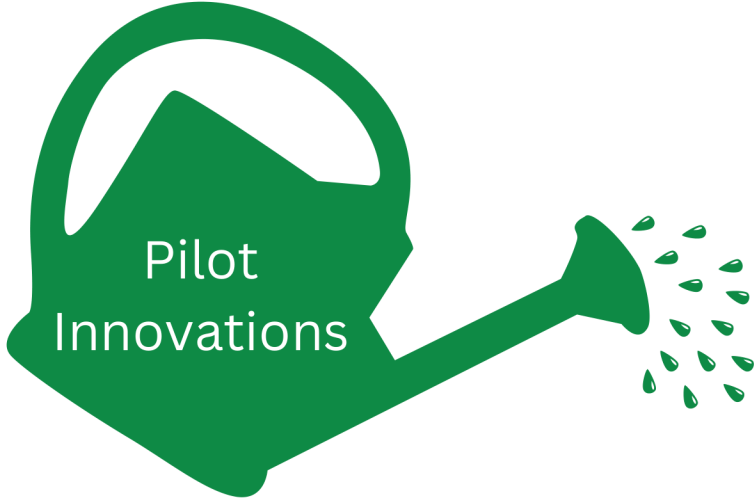
Grades PreK - 12



First-grade students observing ferns for a science project at Deer-Isle Stonington.

“Going on the nature journal walks, it teaches me so much and puts me in a better mood and makes me happier. It also gives us kids a chance to get outside of the classroom and just really enjoy nature while still learning.”

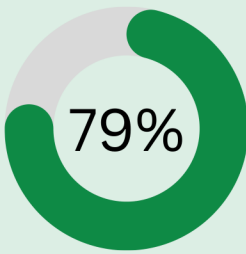
~ Student



- Use of Nontraditional Learning Spaces
- Cross-Curricular Content Integration
- Capacity Building for Teachers and Staff
- Project-Based and Service Learning
- Community Connections

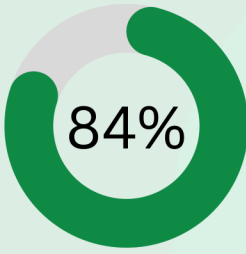
Outdoor Education Outcomes

Student Engagement



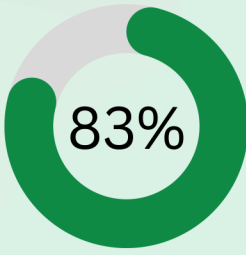
79% of students reported that they liked their experience going outside to learn this year.

Academic Confidence



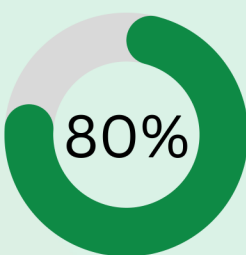
84% of parents reported that their child learned a lot participating in outdoor learning

Parent Satisfaction



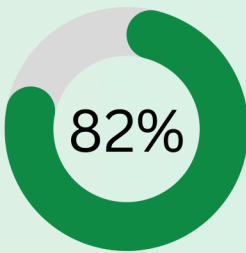
83% of parents reported being satisfied with their child’s experience with outdoor learning.

Mental and Emotional Wellness



80% of parents reported that participating in outdoor learning improved their child’s mental and emotional well-being.

Teacher Engagement









82% of teachers involved in outdoor learning reported that they look forward to teaching on most days.




“According to my 7th-grader, when they are outside, they usually have better behavior and a stronger engagement with learning. The whole class feels more connected and they’re more interested in what they’re learning together.”

~ Parent



Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO)		
<p>Overview</p> <p>The Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) concept provides hands-on credit-bearing experiences for students outside of the traditional classroom, with an emphasis on community-based career exploration. Participating students have opportunities to develop college, career, and life skills through new interdisciplinary curricula for place-based learning and through internships, job shadowing, work-study, and field trips.</p>	<p>Reach</p> <div>  4 schools involved </div> <div>  Over 300 students served </div> <div>  Grades 5 - 12 </div>	<p><i>[My child] was able to have very tailored instruction and learning, fantastic field trips to very relevant community partners. It was...key to my student’s inclusion in the school and success this year.”</i></p> <p>~ Parent</p>
<p>Impact</p> <p>More Engaged Students – Schools with ELO programs experienced increased enrollment over the 2022–2023 school year in the alternative learning pathways. Teachers reported that students who had failed in a traditional classroom setting started to attend school more regularly and flourished with project-based learning, “doing fantastic work” and “getting great grades.”</p> <p>Academic Growth – Most (87%) surveyed students agreed that their school’s pilot helped them learn. Across the three ELO pilots under implementation at the end of the 2022–23 school year, 85% of students enrolled in the new courses earned passing grades that reflected adequate content mastery.</p> <p>Increased Mental and Emotional Wellness – Students and teachers alike described a “happier” learning environment. Reports from students included that “our voices seemed to matter this year,” “we were excited to take charge of our own learning,” and “I am so happy not to be stuck in a chair.”</p>		

Multiple Pathways		
<p>Overview</p> <p>Multiple Pathways programs offer students more options and routes to complete their high school education and pursue career goals, especially in ways that align with specific industries in high demand. Participating students have access to rigorous academics, career technical education, work- and project-based learning, and supportive services.</p>	<p>Reach</p> <div>  8 schools involved </div> <div>  Over 500 students served </div> <div>  Grades PreK - 12 </div>	<p><i>“Students were excited to come to school and participate. Kids had tremendous growth in social areas, working with people they never would before as well as actually participating and talking in class.”</i></p> <p>~ Teacher</p>
<p>Impact</p> <p>Increased Educational Attainment – Multiple Pathways programs have helped individuals achieve higher levels of education, such as completing a high school diploma, obtaining a GED, or earning a postsecondary degree or certificate</p> <p>Increased Mental and Emotional Wellness – Students experience enhanced social-emotional well-being, including greater levels of happiness, self-confidence, and self-esteem, as they achieve educational and career goals</p> <p>Personal Fulfillment – Many students reported greater personal fulfillment and a sense of accomplishment through Multiple Pathways programs as they reach their educational and career goals.</p>		

Online Education		
<p>Overview</p> <p>Online Learning programs are an alternative education pathway that offer students more options than 100% conventional in-person schooling. These students include those who experience anxiety about being in in-person school settings as well as those who desire greater autonomy over the pace and content of their lessons. Many Online Learning programs also include in-person components, such as field trips and community service, to strengthen students’ social-emotional skills and sense of community</p>	<p>Reach</p> <div>  6 schools involved </div> <div>  Over 150 students served </div> <div>  Grades 5 - 12 </div>	<p><i>“I love the fact [online learning] gives me independence and I feel like it is helping me with my work ethic and motivation.”</i></p> <p>~ Student</p>
<p>Impact</p> <p>Academic Outcomes – Most students (78%) and parents (85%) surveyed indicated that they learned a lot that by participating in their school’s Online Learning pilot.</p> <p>Increased Satisfaction and Engagement – Students in Online Learning programs reported being more motivated to learn with more than three-fourths of students surveyed (78%) indicating agreement with the statement that they liked their experience in the Online Learning programs.</p> <p>Re-Engagement with In-Person Learning – Students across Online Learning programs reported positive high school experiences as a result of participation in these programs, with some attributing it to the positive in-person experiences</p>		